

REMARKS

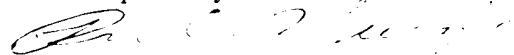
Claims 17-30 stand allowed.

Claims 2-9 and 11-16 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment Claims 2-9 and 11-16 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, Claims 2-9 and 11-16 stand allowable.

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williamson US Patent No. 6,094,105. While Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Applicants are desirous to obtain a timely issued patent on the allowed and objected to Claims identified above. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled independent Claims 1 and 10 solely for the purpose of passing this application to issuance. Applicants fully intends to file a continuing application that incorporates the subject matter of Claims 1 and 10 in order to more fully contest the above rejection.

As a result, Claims 2-9 and 11-30 stand allowable. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application as the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,



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